

**THE COLOR OF RITUAL, THE COLOR OF THOUGHT:
Women Avant-Garde Filmmakers in America 1930–2000**

PART I June 29–July 30, 2000

PART II September 5–October 1, 2000



WHITNEY

Whitney Museum of American Art

THE COLOR OF RITUAL, THE COLOR OF THOUGHT
Women Avant-Garde Filmmakers in America 1930-2000



Maya Deren. Still from *At Land*, 1944

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Since the early 1930s, women filmmakers have played a major role in the history of avant-garde film in America. This series reveals the extent of their influence and achievements through a wide range of their work, including rarely screened material, from the beginnings of experimental film to the present.

The film series is divided into two parts. Part I runs through July and Part II through September. Each week of the series focuses on one of eight featured filmmakers: Maya Deren, Helen Levitt, Shirley Clarke, Yvonne Rainer, Mary Ellen Bute, Marie Menken, Yoko Ono, and Chick Strand. On weekdays, the contributions of the featured filmmaker are highlighted by continuous screenings of one or two key films from her career. On weekends, special programs present the eight featured filmmakers' classic films in a new context, alongside thematically related works by other women filmmakers. Themes that are

explored include ritual (Maya Deren), poetic documentary (Helen Levitt), social protest and lyrical dance (Shirley Clarke), dance as political narrative (Yvonne Rainer), abstraction and literature (Mary Ellen Bute), proto-Structuralism (Marie Menken), the body politic (Yoko Ono), and female identity, Surrealism, and ethnographic documentary (Chick Strand). In addition, numerous other genres and subjects—documentary, personal diary films, abstract and psychological studies of landscape and the city, depictions of the body, family, politics, and erotic experience—run through each of these special thematic programs, providing additional avenues of comparison between works and contributing to a broader understanding of women avant-garde filmmakers in America.

PART I SCREENING SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise noted, all works are 16mm film, color, sound.

Weekday Programs Featured Filmmakers

On weekdays, films by a featured filmmaker are screened every hour on the hour, except where noted. First and last screening times are as follows: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 1 and 5 pm; Thursdays, 2 and 7 pm.

Weekend Programs

Special programs built around themes in the works of featured filmmakers are screened Saturdays and Sundays, 1 and 3 pm, except where noted.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29, AND
FRIDAY, JUNE 30

Featured Filmmaker: Maya Deren

At Land, 1944. Black-and-white; 14 min.

Meditation on Violence, 1948. Black-and-white; 13 min.

SATURDAY, JULY 1

The Color of Ritual

1 pm

Maya Deren. *The Witch's Cradle*, 1943. Black-and-white, silent; 12 min.

Maya Deren. *At Land*, 1944. Black-and-white; 14 min.

Barbara Hammer. *The Great Goddess*, 1977. Black-and-white; 25 min.

Storm De Hirsch. *Peyote Queen*, 1965; 9 min.

3 pm

Maya Deren. *Meditation on Violence*, 1948. Black-and-white; 13 min.

Amy Greenfield. *Element*, 1973. Black-and-white, silent; 12 min.

Rosalind Schneider. *Earth Saga*, 1980; 23 min.

4 pm

Maya Deren. *Divine Horsemen: The Living Gods of Haiti*, 1977. Black-and-white; 54 min.

Karen Kramer. *To Serve the Gods*, 1982; 33 min.

SUNDAY, JULY 2

The Color of Ritual

1 pm

Maya Deren. *The Witch's Cradle*, 1943. Black-and-white, silent; 12 min.

Maya Deren. *At Land*, 1944. Black-and-white; 14 min.

Barbara Hammer. *The Great Goddess*, 1977. Black-and-white; 25 min.

Storm De Hirsch. *Peyote Queen*, 1965; 9 min.

3 pm

Maya Deren. *Meditation on Violence*, 1948. Black-and-white; 13 min.

Amy Greenfield. *Element*, 1973. Black-and-white, silent; 12 min.

Rosalind Schneider. *Earth Saga*, 1980; 23 min.

Film Dance

4 pm

Maya Deren. *Ensemble for Somnambulists*, 1951. Black-and-white; 7 min.

Maya Deren. *Ritual in Transfigured Time*, 1946. Black-and-white; 15 min.

Sara Kathryn Arledge. *Introspection*, 1941; 7 min.

Elaine Summers. *In the Absence and the Presence*, 1985. Black-and-white; 7 min.

Doris Chase. *Circles II (Smith)*, 1972; 12 min.

Rosalind Schneider. *Parallax*, 1973. Color and black-and-white; 21 min. (Three-screen film)

TUESDAY, JULY 4—
FRIDAY, JULY 7

Featured Filmmaker: Maya Deren

At Land, 1944. Black-and-white; 14 min.

Meditation on Violence, 1948. Black-and-white; 13 min.

SATURDAY, JULY 8

The Color of Ritual

1 pm

Maya Deren. *The Witch's Cradle*, 1943. Black-and-white, silent; 12 min.

Maya Deren. *At Land*, 1944. Black-and-white; 14 min.

Barbara Hammer. *The Great Goddess*, 1977. Black-and-white; 25 min.

Storm De Hirsch. *Peyote Queen*, 1965; 9 min.

3 pm

Maya Deren. *Meditation on Violence*, 1948. Black-and-white; 13 min.

Amy Greenfield. *Element*, 1973. Black-and-white, silent; 12 min.

Rosalind Schneider. *Earth Saga*, 1980; 23 min.

4 pm

Maya Deren. *Divine Horsemen: The Living Gods of Haiti*, 1977. Black-and-white; 54 min.

Karen Kramer. *To Serve the Gods*, 1982; 33 min.



Amy Greenfield. Frame enlargement from *Element*, 1973

SUNDAY, JULY 9

The Color of Ritual

1 pm

Maya Deren. *The Witch's Cradle*, 1943. Black-and-white, silent; 12 min.

Maya Deren. *At Land*, 1944. Black-and-white; 14 min.

Barbara Hammer. *The Great Goddess*, 1977. Black-and-white; 25 min.

Storm De Hirsch. *Peyote Queen*, 1965; 9 min.

3 pm

Maya Deren. *Meditation on Violence*, 1948. Black-and-white; 13 min.

Amy Greenfield. *Element*, 1973. Black-and-white, silent; 12 min.

Rosalind Schneider. *Earth Saga*, 1980; 23 min.

Film Dance

4 pm

Maya Deren. *Ensemble for Somnambulists*, 1951. Black-and-white; 7 min.

Maya Deren. *Ritual in Transfigured Time*, 1946. Black-and-white; 15 min.

Sara Kathryn Arledge. *Introspection*, 1941; 7 min.

Elaine Summers. *In the Absence and the Presence*, 1985. Black-and-white; 7 min.

Doris Chase. *Circles II (Smith)*, 1972; 12 min.

Rosalind Schneider. *Parallax*, 1973. Color and black-and-white; 21 min. (Three-screen film)

TUESDAY, JULY 11–
FRIDAY, JULY 14

Featured Filmmaker: Helen Levitt

Helen Levitt, Janice Loeb, and James Agee. *In the Street*, 1952. Black-and-white, silent, with sound on audiocassette; 16 min.

SATURDAY, JULY 15
Street Shadows

1 pm

Helen Levitt, Janice Loeb, and James Agee. *In the Street*, 1952. Black-and-white, silent, with sound on audiocassette; 16 min.

Noll Brinckmann. *The West Village Meat Market*, 1979. Silent; 12 min.

Eva Lothar. *Street of the Sardine*, 1968; 21 min.

Joyce Wieland. 1933, 1967; 4 min.

3 pm

Storm De Hirsch. *Goodbye in the Mirror*, 1964. Black-and-white; 80 min.

SUNDAY, JULY 16

The Documentary Portrait

1 pm

Maryette Charlton. *Loren MacIver*, 1956–62. Color and black-and-white, silent; 46 min.

3 pm

Alexis Krasilovsky. *End of the Art World*, 1971; 33 min.

Storm De Hirsch. *Newsreel: Jonas in the Brig*, 1964. Black-and-white, silent; 5 min.

Silvianna Goldsmith. *Lil Picard*, 1981; 28 min.



Yvonne Rainer. Still from *The Man Who Envied Women*, 1985

TUESDAY, JULY 18–
FRIDAY, JULY 21

Featured Filmmaker: Shirley Clarke

A Moment in Love, 1957; 8 min.

Bridges-Go-Round, 1958; 8 min.

SATURDAY, JULY 22

Noon

Shirley Clarke. *The Connection*, 1961. Black-and-white; 103 min.

3 pm

Maya Deren. *A Study in Choreography for Camera*, 1945. Black-and-white; 3 min.

Shirley Clarke. *Dance in the Sun*, 1953; 6 min.

Maya Deren. *Ritual in Transfigured Time*, 1946. Black-and-white; 15 min.

Shirley Clarke. *A Moment in Love*, 1957; 8 min.

Marie Menken. *Bagatelle for Willard Maas*, 1963; 5 min.

Shirley Clarke. *Bridges-Go-Round*, 1958; 8 min.

Shirley Clarke. *24 Frames Per Second*, 1977; 5 min.

SUNDAY, JULY 23

Noon

Shirley Clarke. *Portrait of Jason*, 1967. Black-and-white; 105 min.

3 pm

Carole and Eugene Marnier. *Phyllis & Terry*, 1964–65. Black-and-white; 36 min.

Shirley Clarke and Robert Hughes. *A Scary Time*, 1960. Black-and-white; 20 min.

Helen Levitt, Janice Loeb, and Sidney Meyers. *The Quiet One*, 1946–47. Black-and-white; 67 min.

TUESDAY, JULY 25–
FRIDAY, JULY 28

Featured Filmmaker: Yvonne Rainer

Lives of Performers, 1972. Black-and-white; 90 min.

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday:
Screenings at 1 pm, 3 pm, and 5 pm;
Thursday: Screenings at 2 pm, 4 pm,
and 6 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 29

The Reinvention of Narrative

Noon

Yvonne Rainer. *Journey from Berlin*/1971, 1980. Black-and-white; 125 min.

3 pm

Bette Gordon. *Exchanges*, 1979; 15 min.

Gunvor Nelson. *Red Shift*, 1983. Black-and-white; 50 min.

Barbara Hammer. *Optic Nerve*, 1985. Color and black-and-white; 16 min.

SUNDAY, JULY 30

Noon

Yvonne Rainer. *The Man Who Envied Women*, 1985. Color and black-and-white; 125 min.

3 pm

Marjorie Keller. *Misconception*, 1977; 43 min.

4 pm

Yvonne Rainer. *Privilege*, 1990; 103 min.

Part II of "The Color of Ritual, The Color of Thought: Women Avant-Garde Filmmakers in America 1930–2000" will be screened September 5–October 1, 2000. The four featured filmmakers will be Mary Ellen Bute, Marie Menken, Yoko Ono, and Chick Strand.

Screenings in the Kaufman Astoria Studios Film & Video Gallery are free with the price of general admission to the Whitney Museum. A one-day pass to the Kaufman Astoria Studios Film & Video Gallery only is available for \$5.

This screening schedule is also available on our website, www.whitney.org.

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